

U.S. Application No.:  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3968.120

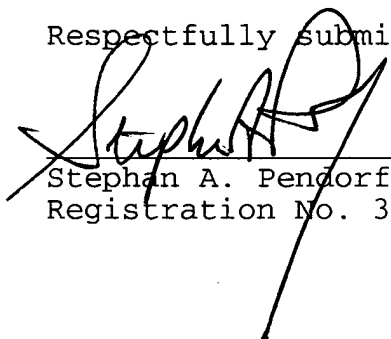
**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to conform to U.S. practice and requirements.

Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added.

Entry and favorable consideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: **July 20, 2004**

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EV392067640US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **July 20, 2004**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and a stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: **ATTN: Mail Stop: PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application, except for the issue fee, without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

  
Bonnie L. Horst